



**Montana Fish,  
Wildlife & Parks**

# Decision Notice and Final Environmental Assessment Smith River – Deep Creek Conservation Easement

## Description of Proposed Action

On August 27, 2007, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) published an Environmental Assessment (EA) for public review regarding a proposal to accept a donated conservation easement from a private party on a 240-acre parcel of private property in the Smith River corridor.

The conservation easement would provide for land management consistent with the conservation and recreation goals of Smith River State Park. The possibility of providing legal public access to this private parcel has been a high priority for FWP for many years. The benefits of the conservation easement include the potential to provide new boat camp(s) on the Smith River corridor, allowing the public access to the scenic Deep Creek drainage immediately adjacent to the Smith River for hiking and outdoor recreation, and ensuring that this scenic and biologically diverse property is permanently protected from subdivision.

## Public Comments

The Draft Environmental Assessment posted by FWP for public comment from August 27 through September 17, 2007 received a total of 2 public comments, with both being in favor of FWP's proposed action.

## Decision

Based on the analysis in the EA, along with all public comments received, FWP has decided to proceed with the proposal to accept the donated conservation easement on the 240-acre parcel of private land known as Deep Creek. FWP has reviewed the EA and applicable laws, regulations, and policies and have determined that this action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

If you have questions regarding this decision notice, or the final EA, please direct requests and questions to: Mr. Gary Bertellotti, Region Four Supervisor, 4600 Giant Springs Road, Great Falls, MT 59405, (406) 454-5840.

/s/  
Gary Bertellotti  
Region 4 Supervisor

10/01/2007  
Date